

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. – 40. (Cancelled)

41. **(Currently Amended)** A method of forming human embryonic stem cell (hESC) aggregates, the method comprising obtaining a suspension of individual separate hESCs and subjecting the ~~suspension~~ **suspended individual cells** to centrifugation, wherein the centrifugation causes aggregation of the hESCs.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein prior to aggregation the hESCs are dissociated to become single cells.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42 wherein hESCs are dissociated to become single cells through exposure to an agent which causes cell dissociation.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the agent is a protease.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the protease is trypsin.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the agent comprises trypsin and EDTA.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein centrifugation is performed using low-attachment centrifugation plates or low-attachment holding vessels.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the centrifugation plates or holding vessels comprise round bottomed wells.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the centrifugation plates or holding vessels comprise conical shaped wells.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of culturing the hESC aggregates in the presence of a culture medium under conditions which promote hESC growth and allowing the aggregated hESCs to grow.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 or claim 50 further comprising the step of culturing the hESC aggregates in the presence of one or more differentiation factors which promote hESC differentiation and allowing the aggregated hESCs to differentiate.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the differentiated cells are human blood cells.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50 ~~or claim 51~~ further comprising the step of isolating the cultured and/or differentiated hESCs.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of forming human embryonic stem cells (hESC) aggregates, comprising:
obtaining a suspension of hESCs;
growing the hESCs ~~on~~ in the presence of a culture medium;
harvesting hESCs from the medium;
suspending the harvested hESCs in serum-free medium; and
centrifuging the suspension and thereby creating an aggregate of hESCs as a result of the centrifugation.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the culture medium comprises mouse feeder cells.

56. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 54, wherein the hESCs are grown ~~on~~ in the culture medium to 60-80% confluency.

57. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 54, wherein the centrifuging is carried out at ~~500~~ 1,500 rpm for 2 minutes at 4°C.

58. **(Currently Amended)** The method as claimed in claim 54, further comprising:
resuspending the hESCs in a solution in the absence of ~~the a~~ growth factor factors.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:
performing a cell count on the hESCs.
60. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 54, further comprising:
disassociating the hESCs prior to aggregation using a protease.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the disassociation is carried out
with the addition of EDTA.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein centrifugation is performed
using low-attachment centrifugation plates or low-attachment holding vessels.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein the centrifugation plates or
holding vessels comprise round bottomed wells.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein the centrifugation plates or
holding vessels comprise conical shaped wells.
65. **(Currently Amended)** A method of forming human embryonic stem cells (hESC)
aggregates, comprising:
obtaining a suspension of hESCs;
growing the hESCs ~~on~~ in a culture medium of mouse feeder cells to ~~60-90%~~ 60-80%
confluency;
harvesting hESCs from the medium;
suspending the harvested hESCs in serum-free medium; and
centrifuging the suspension on a vessel with a low attachment surface and thereby creating an
aggregate of hESCs as a result of the centrifugation.

66. (New) A method of forming an aggregate of human embryonic stem cells (hESC), comprising:

- suspending harvested hESC in serum-free media in a container;
- dislodging hESC from the container;
- collecting the hESC in a low adhesion plate;
- suspending the hESC in a manner sufficient to allow for a cell count; and
- centrifuging the suspended hESC to form an aggregate of hESC.